

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The Request filed on 3/17/2009 for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 10/017027 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1-15, 18-21, 23, and 25 have been cancelled; therefore, Claims 16-17, 22, 24, and 26-31 are currently pending in application 10/017,027.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The rejection of Claims 16-17, 22, 24, and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Saito (US 6,317,878 B1) is withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 16-17, 22, 24, and 26-31 are allowed.**

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.
8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (571) 272-4000. Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 4, 2009

/Jonathan Ouellette/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3629

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